

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 2, 4 - 12, 14 - 18, 20 - 47, and 50 - 51 are pending. Claims 9, 17, 26, 27, and 51 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

In the January 30, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1 – 2, 4 – 8, 25, 30, 33, 36 – 37, 42 – 43, and 50. Accordingly, applicants note that claims 1 – 2, 4 – 8, 25, 30, 33, 36 - 37, 42 – 43, and 50 are in condition for allowance.

In the January 30, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 9 – 12, 14 – 18, 20 -24, 26 – 29, 31 – 32, 34 – 35, 38 – 41, 44 – 47, and 51 because the variable “y” was utilized without explanation. The applicants understand the Examiner’s objection. The applicants erroneously used the variable “y” instead of the variable “γ” (or gamma). Applicants also amended claims 9, 17, 26, 27, and 51 to recite that “γ” represents a degree of mixing. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s objections have been overcome. Applicant also believes that independent claims 9, 17, 26, 27, and 51 (and the claims that indirectly or directly depend on these claims, i.e., claims 10 – 12, 14 – 16, 20 – 24, 28 – 29, 31 – 32, 34 – 35, 38 – 41, and 44 – 47) are all in condition for allowance.

///

///

///

///

///

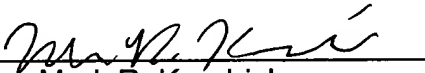
///

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

Date: May 1, 2006

By: 
Mark R. Kendrick
Registration No. 48,468
Attorney For Applicants

725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2800
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5406
Telephone: (213) 488-7100
Facsimile: (213) 629-1033